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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/076,374	02/15/2002	Mihaela Van Der Schaar	US 020044	1300
24737	7590	01/25/2006	EXAMINER	
PHILIPS INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY & STANDARDS P.O. BOX 3001 BRIARCLIFF MANOR, NY 10510			CZEKAJ, DAVID J	
		ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER	
		2616		
DATE MAILED: 01/25/2006				

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/076,374	VAN DER SCHAAR, MIHAELA	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Dave Czekaj	2616	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 17 August 2005.
 2a) This action is **FINAL**. 2b) This action is non-final.
 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4) Claim(s) 1-20 is/are pending in the application.
 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
 5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
 6) Claim(s) 1-4,6,9-12 and 17-19 is/are rejected.
 7) Claim(s) 5,7,8,13-16 and 20 is/are objected to.
 8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement. -

Application Papers

9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
 10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
 Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 a) All b) Some * c) None of:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)	4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)	Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____
3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08) Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____	5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
	6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION***Response to Arguments***

1. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1-20 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

2. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

3. Claims 1-4, 6, 9-12, and 17-19 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Li (6275531).

Regarding claims 1, 11, and 17, Li discloses an apparatus that relates to the scaling of data signals (Li: column 1, lines 13-15). This apparatus comprises "decomposing residual coefficients in bit planes or discrete quantization steps a selected one of the transform blocks before decomposing residual coefficients for a next block" (Li: figure 6, wherein all bit planes for a selected block are calculated first) and "processing the bit planes or quantization steps for the transform blocks before decomposing the residual coefficients for the next selected transform block" (Li: figure 6). Although Li fails to specifically disclose decomposing residual coefficients in at least two bit planes, Li does show the processing for the bit planes as part of a "loop" process. The examiner notes that the

"loop" process would process a plurality of bit planes. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to process at least two bit planes or discrete quantization steps in order to obtain more data samples for a better quality image.

Regarding claims 2 and 18, Li discloses "the transform blocks are DCT blocks and the residual coefficients are DCT residual coefficients" (Li: column 6, lines 22-25).

Regarding claims 3 and 19, Li discloses "run-length and variable length encoding" (Li: column 6, lines 14-19, wherein the run length and variable length encoding is well known within the MPEG environment).

Regarding claims 4 and 12, Li does not explicitly teach of storing each bit-plane in a different position, however, it is considered obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to place bit-planes in different locations in memory so as not to overwrite the previously stored bit-planes. (Official Notice, Along with reference US 6,664,902).

Regarding claim 6, Li discloses "forming a compressed bitstream containing the bit-planes for all the DCT blocks in the image frame" (Li: figure 1, wherein the Mux or server forms the bitstreams).

Regarding claim 9, Li discloses "the bit-planes includes each bit-plane from a most significant to a least significant bit-plane" (Li: column 7, lines 21-27).

Regarding claim 10, Li discloses "the transform blocks are formed by one of the following: DCT, wavelet coding, or matching pursuit and SNR-scalabilities using discrete quantization steps" (Li: column 5, lines 31-38).

Allowable Subject Matter

4. Claims 5, 7-8, 13-16, and 20 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Dave Czekaj whose telephone number is (571) 272-7327. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday - Friday 9 hours.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, James Groody can be reached on (571) 272-7950. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

DJC

MEHRDAD DASTOURI
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER

TC 2600

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